

## THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1846.

In our last, we assumed the position that alcoholic drinks, in any degree, are injurious to health. This opinion is based upon the multitude of physiological facts collected by those who, of late years, have made this subject their particular study, with reference to the moral and physical improvement of their fellow men. Even physicians, who, as a body, are slow to admit truths that thwart pre-conceived theories, or militate against long-established practice, have very generally come forward and denounced their use in health, and restricted their practice in sickness to a very slight degree, and then only under peculiar conditions of the body. This is more particularly true of American physicians, for it is in America that more has been said and done upon this subject than in any other country. Those acquainted with John C. Warren, Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, in Harvard University, and second in his profession to none other in the United States, will defer greatly to his opinion. In a little work for families, published this year, entitled "Physical Education, and the Preservation of health," he says: "All kinds of stimulating drinks are of pernicious effect. A single excess or debauch takes off something from life, and when this excess is frequently repeated, even if not carried to habitual intoxication, the effect must be materially to diminish the term of existence. All alcoholic drinks have the property of preventing the decomposition, and, of course, the digestion of food. This property it is, that enables us to preserve portions of the flesh of animals, when steeped in alcohol, for a great number of years."

We quote this authority as sufficient to fortify our own opinion, and as quite enough for any reasonable mind. But if the results of the experience of surgical and medical practice, of two score years, in a populous city, of one whose life has been devoted to the study of physiology, are not to be received, we have no higher testimony to offer. Those, therefore, who credit his statements, will readily perceive that no inconsiderable moral responsibility rests upon those who require the sale of such deleterious drinks among our population. They are exposing a covert poison to their weaker brethren, by which they destroy their health, multiply diseases, and shorten their lives.

Such are the general results upon the physical system. Morally considered, the injury is still greater, for it spreads from the infatuated victim through a circle as wide as his influence extends. It is not necessary for us now to bring before our readers individual instances of moral ruin from this cause. They are fresh in the recollection of every one, and that family is fortunate indeed who has not had to mourn over hopes blighted by that insatiable demon, alcohol.

Our particular purpose is to illustrate, from well known facts, the effects of the sale of ardent spirits in Honolulu, where alone throughout the kingdom, it is permitted. It is not too much for us to say that, so far as we know, as a class, the liquor venders in our town are as respectable and as orderly a body as can be found in their occupation any where. They show themselves desirous of maintaining the law and preserving decorum. Generally we believe them to be strictly temperate men themselves, though perhaps not aware that in their own persons, they are passing the greatest condemnation upon their own traffic. But we do not mean to upbraid them. The law, unfortunately, licenses their business, and thus it becomes in the eyes of the world reputable. We have now to deal with it as such, believing that all who thus trade in it, do so with a single eye to a legitimate livelihood, blinded, perhaps, by familiarity or want of proper examination of the subject, to its real evils; for we are slow to think that any portion of men would deliberately and knowingly place in the hands of their fellow men the means of crime and self-destruction.

But whatever be their motives and character, we have grog venders and wine dealers amongst us.—We include the latter with the former, not that mischief flowing from their traffic is any ways equal to that from the stronger poison, retailed in greater quantities to men at large, without regard to their moral discrimination or physical strength, but because the rule should be universal. Temperance in wine is the common forerunner of intemperance in brandy. If the principal is to be condemned so should be the accessory. Beside, the justice that would refuse the man with his 6-1-4 cents his vulgar dram, but give the man with 12-1-2 his genteel sangaree, would be but indifferently appreciated by the mass. The rule must be equal, or none at all. The safe should be willing to be safer still, that the doubtful may have no opportunity to be lost. The ground for condemning alcohol in any shape, is its mischief. It is a subtle devil, and often disguises its cloven foot under a genteel cover, the brightness of which is lost sight of in its handsome exterior.—But we desire to include in our lists all his spirits, blue white or grey, mixed or single, and to sweep from the board all that intoxicates.

In this there is but one object, to benefit society. To show that the exclusion of ardent spirits would benefit society, it is necessary to begin by proving that their sale is an injury. This has been done so far as health is considered. How is it upon our community at large, even under the present rigid system of licenses and heavy duties, by which disorder

is so generally curtailed and prices augmented? We believe in no part of the world are the restrictions incorporated in the licenses, more stringent and more salutary than here. They require the sale by the glass only, and to be drunk in the shops. These are limited to few, and required to be closed at 9 at night, and not open at all on Sunday. Heavy bonds are exacted that quiet shall be conserved in doors. The law takes every means within its power to make its sale as little obnoxious to the public welfare as possible. To this may be added a strong temperance feeling in our community, and the general abstinence of the native population, resulting from the influence of their rulers and teachers. The retailers are, moreover, forbidden to sell to the natives. Yet with all these advantages and restrictions, this fall has been the scene of riot and confusion, which well-nigh led to serious consequences on lives and property. It is of no great moment that men, who claim to be gentlemen, parade the streets at midnight, fresh from their revels, and stop under windows of quiet families, singing insulting songs and making the night hideous by disgraceful cries. Such deportment recoils upon the offenders and lowers them in their own esteem as well as that of others. But from such there is no fear of rapine, arson, or any of the prominent crimes that so often flow from the mass when excited on cheaper fluids. There is fear from their example, however, and the lesser should be promptly checked that the greater may not follow. It is of vast consequence, however, when the laws made for the security of society at large can be violated with impunity by an armed force from ship board, as was the case on the nights of the 8th and 9th of August last. The sailors from H. B. M.'s S. Collingwood, came in large bands on liberty, and broke into the liquor shops of Alan and John McDuffie, rifling their contents, though they left money for most they drank. The judicious manner with which they were dealt with, alone prevented bloodshed and confusion. The police, inferior in number, could not avail to preserve the laws, and cause the property of Messrs. Alan and McDuffie to be respected. Had the populace and soldiers been called in, resistance would have ensued, and, as in the case of the Juno, the latter end been far worse than the first. Consequently expediency dictated that the revellers be let alone until they could be quietly got off to their ship. In this case liquor was the cause of this trampling upon laws, and periling lives and property. The precedent of law-breaking, in a community like ours, all interested in property or families, will allow is calculated to excite real alarm.

The Juno riots soon after occurred. These are fresh in the memory of all. By referring to the account of them, as given at the time, it will be seen that the intemperance of the carpenter, McLellan, was the first cause of those deplorable affrays. It is solely owing to the extraordinary precautions of the Governor, for the ensuing week, that the community was secured from worse scenes.

But any one who consults the records of our courts, will perceive how large a proportion of police cases result from intoxication. No other source is more fruitful of trouble to ship masters. Do away with the temptation to seamen to drink, and Jack comes ashore quiet, engages in amusements less draining to his purse, and goes off an orderly, sober man. It is but fair that seamen, imprisoned as they are for months on ship board, should have, while in port, as much freedom of the shore as is consistent with their duties. It is grog that incites their evil passions, makes them quarrelsome, abusive to the police, mutinous to their officers, and destructive to their own and others property. By it their energies are wasted and their health impaired. Their liberty is proportionately curtailed, and society at large are suspicious of them, as however frank, generous and tractable Jack may be when sober, when drunk, he is too often made the tool of artful, malicious spirits, who prompt him to the mischief they would not be found in themselves. Undoubtedly alcohol is society's worst enemy. It multiplies civil expense, and taxes the industrious for the vile. It defrauds the community of the minds and muscles of numerous otherwise intelligent, active men. It consumes without producing. It is an ulcer upon the vitals of any nation. Any way managed, it weakens the healthful parts, diffuses poison through the entire system, and exudes a fetid odor. Where it acts as a slow poison, as among the Caucasian races, it can be met with corresponding antidotes. But where its effects are speedy, like the bite of the venomous tarantula, the wound must be cauterized.

More need not be said to show that this community suffers materially from the importation and sale of ardent spirits. If any one be disposed to plead the policy of allowing their sale where ships refresh, the example of Lahaina, the past year, can be quoted against them. Fortunately, through the exertions of the local Government and the friends of temperance, no ardent spirits, or next to none, have found their way there this year. The result has been a quiet and order that has in vain been sought for in previous years, while liquors were to be had. The discipline both of ships and shore has been better preserved. In other ports, where the same interdiction has prevailed, the result has been the same. What then prevents a similar order and security to lives and property from prevailing at Honolulu? We shall endeavor to answer this question in our next.

## Supplement to the Polynesian.

Those whose appetite is not already satiated with such news, will find in our Supplement of to-day the court record of the investigation into the conduct of Mr. Brickwood, and the police, charged by Captain Blake, of H. B. M.'s ship Juno, with attacking his men. The facts relative to the fracas, we gave at the time. Since then the correspondence of Captain Blake has appeared in print, as we understand, with his sanction, but omitting the testimony taken in court. Although Captain Blake's men, after that affair, committed outrages upon the natives, molested peaceable residents at night, and rendered the streets unsafe for a while, yet no notice that we ever heard, was taken of their conduct. It was injudicious, to say the least, to allow them to come ashore on liberty, when under great excitement. The greater the apparent provocation, the more caution should have been exercised, for the quiet of families and the safety of property was of more moment than the poor satisfaction of drubbing and frightening half-clad natives, could they have been found. The Government punished every native severely that was detected as being in the riots. The head of the police was reprimanded, but not dismissed, because his conduct until that period had been proved as officer-like, and on that occasion it may justly be doubted from the testimony taken, whether Mr. Brickwood was so blame-worthy as Captain Blake appears to think. Whatever view that gentleman may take of the department of the Atty General, or the character of the court, he should not forget that to err is human, and not confined to one side alone. In the eyes of dispassionate spectators, he laid himself open to severe strictures, which, from the publication of his violent and unreasonable language in regard to others, he seemingly invites. But we have no intention now of doing this, beyond expressing the regret that he should have so far forgot himself in court as to so repeatedly and excitedly interrupt Mr. Ricord, pressing the prosecution himself with an eagerness which argued but poorly for impartiality, and finally use profane language, coupled with an implied threat, and in such vehement tones as to cause the large band of his seamen present to rise to their feet and give three cheers, in the presence of the Judge and Governor. This was indecorous, and little calculated to ensure peace from his men in future. Violence, whether of tone or action in a court of justice, will receive no sanction from a British public, and a condemnation of parties previous to hearing them in their defence, is as little consonant with their sense of right. We were present during the whole of these proceedings, and looked with unfeigned regret upon them throughout. The Judge failed to maintain the sanctity of his court and to preserve the rights of the parties. The Attorney General, indignant at what appeared to him the unreasonableness and bitterness with which the suit was followed by Captain Blake, who professed to come there simply as a spectator, forgot himself, and on several occasions defended the Prefect of Police, who himself seemed actuated by entire apathy throughout, neglecting points of defence which could have been justly urged, and forgetting to cross-examine witnesses. He should have had counsel.—Without it, the court should have done something for him, and not the Attorney General, who was only known there as public prosecutor. The whole scene was exceeding irregular, but we are much mistaken if Captain Blake left any better impression for his own coolness and fairness upon many present, than he received of those he so warmly animadverted upon. This, with other scenes that have transpired in our courts, show the urgent necessity for remodeling them, and placing them upon a basis both of knowledge and authority, that will ensure from all who enter them the same respect that they would exercise under similar circumstances in their native lands. The best intentions and the most conscientious motives are no safeguard against the sophistries of learning, the wiles of the cunning, or the violence of the arbitrary, and, we may add, the distortions of partizan warfare.

By this time the community must be heartily sick of the "Monsieur Tonson" appearance of official correspondence between the officers of Government and the captains of war-ships, on matters too often trivial in themselves, and only made important by dragging them to light and fostering a morbid love of excitement or notoriety. We shall be heartily glad of the time when a man-of-war can appear here without setting the whole nation in a ferment, and adding to the already sufficiently long catalogue of disagreeables ashore. We recommend to the Cabinet more brevity and secrecy in their correspondence—more action and fewer words. Things and men are often made of moment, when, if let alone, their very insignificance would be forgotten. Not a stranger comes to our town but has to hear all parties and come to some (impartial?) conclusion on matters that no more concern him than the length of the Pashaw of Egypt's beard or the whereabouts of the Wandering Jew. The breed of great men is multiplying at a fearful rate. Soon there will be no commoners; then, thank Heaven, greatness will die of sheer vexation.

A captain of a fine frigate cares not much for a discharge of cabinet resolutions, and sensible people ashore care as little for his angry animadversions. All should care more for peace, and if a controversy arises, conducting it to satisfactory termination through the medium of cool heads and sound discretion.

**SMUGGLING SPIRITS.**—On Monday morning last, at 3 o'clock, five barrels of brandy were seized by the Prefect of Police, as they were being smuggled ashore from the Hamburg brig Helene, captain Anderson. The barrels were immediately taken to the custom house, where they were recognized by Mr. Godefrey, the supercargo, as having come from his vessel. At the same time he disclaimed any knowledge of the transaction. This offence, by the present laws, subjected the vessel to confiscation, and the principals and accessories to fines of \$1000 each. But in consideration of its being the first offence that has come to the knowledge of the Government, the Attorney General, with the advice of the other ministers, forbore to prosecute the case to the full extent of the law, but imposed in lieu a forfeiture of \$2500, which Mr. Godefrey promptly paid into the King's Treasury.

The forfeited liquor was publicly emptied into the street, in front of the custom house, on Tuesday, at 12 o'clock.

The offence of smuggling in our community, is, if possible, more heinous than elsewhere. Much is trusted to the honor of merchants and supercargoes. Up to this date the Government have had no reason not to view the individual honor of merchants as a safer guarantee than locks and watchers. And in this case the vessel was a transient trader, and no merchant can be in any way supposed to have been cognizant of the transaction. It is important, both for the Government and mercantile community, that this confidence should remain unimpaired; hence each is equally interested in ferreting out any one who would be engaged in so nefarious a transaction. Besides the injury to the licensed, honest, importer and seller, it is the means of putting into irresponsible hands a quantity of poison, calculated to breed disturbances and endanger property. On this account, and particularly in the case in question, where the parties had full knowledge of the penalties imposed by the law, and had already been favored by Government in the matter of bonding, the law should have been allowed to operate to its full extent. As it is, however, \$2500 fine is an example not to be disregarded by others; and we believe that, should another case occur, the clemency which existed in this would not be again extended.

**BEARER OF DISPATCHES.**—Mr. H. Lindsay left Sunday morning with large dispatches from this Government, and the U. S. Commission, and private parties, for the United States, in the bark George. He expects to land at Sonsonate, Central America, and in twelve days arrive at the Balize, Honduras, whence he proceeds to New Orleans.

A gentleman at present residing in this town who, it appears some time ago, was on board a steamer when her boiler burst, was asked by a friend the other morning, if he felt any ill effects from the same? he innocently replied, "feel any ill effects, lord bless your soul, I'm so regularly blown up every day by my wife, that mere steam has no effect upon me!"

**TO DANCE OR NOT TO DANCE!** *That's the question!* We are in a fair way now to know whether dancing by Christians is an error or an innocent indulgence. The world is to have the benefit of fifty dollars worth of written opinion on this subject, and whilst any one may write down his thoughts, it is the clergy only who are to decide upon the rights of what is written. We are likely to have another tractarian controversy upon a disputed point of christian life and conduct, a gentleman of New York having offered a premium for a tract on dancing. The subjoined notice is from the Journal of Commerce:

"A gentleman hereby offers a premium of \$50 for the best Tract, not exceeding twelve pages, on the question of the propriety of Dancing by church members, and the expediency of teaching it to our children." Committee of award, Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D. New York; Rev. E. W. Andrews, Troy, N. Y.; and Rev. William A. Hallock, 150 Nassau street, New York, to either of whom manuscripts, each accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name of the writer, may be addressed (post paid) until November 1, 1846.

**WILLIAM A. HALLOCK.** The clergymen mentioned in the above who are to decide between the different tracts that may be presented on the question are taken from three different religious denominations. Dr. Tyng is an Episcopalian, Mr. Andrews a Methodist, and Mr. Hallock a Presbyterian. We have not a doubt from what we know of this respectable trio of clerical judges that their prejudices are even now against dancing, and it is never deemed fair to select jurors with minds already made up. However, we doubt not that a most excellent tract might be written on the other side that would stagger their convictions. Educate the mind and morals rightly—discipline the mind and govern the morals by christian precept and a church member of the strictest sect might dance himself and see his children dance too, for very joy of the grace that is in them. All innocent amusements are expedient, and the right kind of dancing in the social circle is one of the most innocent indulgences. To dance as Herodias did is wrong, but there are other scripture examples of a very different character. When this matter shall have been decided, we hope the same gentleman who has offered this prize of fifty dollars will see fit to offer another of an hundred dollars, to decide the question how far gossiping may go among church members without degenerating into scandal and evil-speaking—a question we think, as expedient to settle as the other, and involving far more serious consequences.—[Boston Transcript.]

Galvanic Garters are now advertised for sale. If science progresses at this rate, it is difficult to tell where it will stop.—[Mirror.]